

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

attached **“Response to Arguments”**

1. Applicant's arguments, see Amendment filed **1/30/2009 – 8/13/2009** and see Interview Summaries for **1/28/2010**, with respect to claims **9-19 and 26-67** have been fully considered and are persuasive. All rejection of claims **9-19 and 26-67** have been withdrawn.
2. Claims **9-19 and 26-67** are allowable. Claims **1-8 and 20-25** are canceled. Claims **9-19 and 26-67** are amended by examiner's amendment (*see following pages*).

attached “**Allowable Subject Matter/Reasons for Allowance**”

1. Claims **9-19 and 26-67** are allowable.
2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:
 - a. The prior art made of record, **Stewart (U.S. 5,835,061)** discloses an **mobile unit is equipped to generate a identification code that can be transmitted to and recognized by the access point or system accessed through access point. Such an identification code allows recognizing of a user before providing access to system services, thereby providing a measure of security and a service billing mechanism. Stewart (U.S. 5,835,061) fails to teach the wireless access point listens for all types of identification information and answers all queries from the portable computing device even if the wireless access point does not recognize the identification information.**

“Examiner’s Amendment”

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Bernadetta Lee** on **1/28/2010**.

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling wireless connections to a network, comprising:

receiving wirelessly at a wireless access point identification information from a portable computing device, wherein:

the wireless access point and the portable computing device communicate using wireless Ethernet,

the wireless access point listens for all types of identification information and answers all queries from the portable computing device even if the wireless access point does not recognize the identification information,

the wireless access point ~~is operable to provide~~ provides portable computing devices access to a plurality of ~~network-service~~ communication medium access providers,

each of the ~~network-service~~ communication medium access providers ~~is operable to enable~~ wirelessly connects portable computing devices ~~to connect wirelessly~~ to the network, and

the identification information identifies a particular one of the ~~network~~

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~~service~~ communication medium access providers;
determining at the wireless access point the particular one of the ~~network service~~
communication medium access providers identified in the identification information;
receiving wirelessly at the wireless access point data from the portable
computing device; and
transmitting by the wireless access point the data to a destination of the
particular one of the ~~network service~~ communication medium access providers.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
storing at a memory medium communicatively coupled to the network a data
structure comprising network service provider information regarding the network service
providers;
wherein determining at the wireless access point the particular one of the
network service providers identified in the identification information comprises accessing
by the wireless access point the network service provider information stored at the
memory medium.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the data structure
comprises a Management Information Base.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the data
structure stores a destination address of the destination of the particular one of the
network service providers.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
storing at a memory medium communicatively coupled to the network a data
structure comprising the network service providers, network service provider information
regarding the network service providers, and associated methods for providing data to
the respective network service providers;
wherein:

determining at the wireless access point the particular one of the network service providers identified in the identification information comprises accessing by the wireless access point the data structure stored at the memory medium, and

the data are transmitted to the destination of the particular one of the network service providers by the wireless access point using the a particular one of the associated methods for providing data to the particular one of the network service providers.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising: storing at a management information base (MIB) communicatively coupled to the network a data structure comprising network service provider information regarding the network service providers;

wherein determining at the wireless access point the particular one of the network service providers identified in the identification information comprises accessing by the wireless access point the network service provider information stored at the MIB.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the data structure stores a destination address of the destination of the particular one of the network service providers.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said identification information comprises a digital certificate.

17. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

18. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

19. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said identification information comprises a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

20-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A network system, comprising:
a network; and
one or more wireless access points coupled to the network,
wherein each of the one or more wireless access points ~~is operable to~~
~~communicates~~ using wireless Ethernet with one or more computing devices[.];
wherein each of the one or more wireless access points listens for all types of
identification information and answers all queries from the one or more computing
devices even if the wireless access point does not recognize the identification
information;
wherein each of the one or more wireless access points ~~is configured to receives~~
identification information from a computing device of the one or more computing devices
indicating a ~~network-service~~ communication medium access provider of a plurality of
possible ~~network-service~~ communication medium access providers[.];
wherein each of the one or more wireless access points ~~is configured to provides~~
access to the plurality of possible ~~network-service~~ communication medium access
providers[.];
wherein each of the plurality of possible ~~network-service~~ communication medium
access providers ~~is configured to enable~~ wirelessly connections particular ones of the
one or more computing devices ~~to connect wirelessly~~ to the network;
wherein each of the one or more wireless access points includes a memory
medium which stores a data structure, wherein the data structure comprises a list of
identification information entries and corresponding ~~network-service~~ communication
medium access providers, wherein each entry indicates a respective ~~network-service~~
communication medium access provider of the plurality of possible ~~network-service~~
communication medium access providers;

wherein each of the one or more wireless access points ~~is operable to~~ determines the ~~network service~~ communication medium access provider indicated by the identification information from the plurality of possible ~~network service~~ communication medium access providers;

wherein, in determining the ~~network service~~ communication medium access provider for the portable computing device, each of the one or more wireless access points ~~is operable to~~ accesses the memory medium and uses the data structure the received identification information to determine the ~~network service~~ communication medium access provider; and

wherein network access is provided to the computing device through the indicated ~~network service~~ communication medium access provider.

27. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 26, wherein the data structure further stores a respective network service provider for each identification information entry;

wherein, in determining the network service provider for the computing device, each of the one or more wireless access points ~~is operable to~~ indexes into the data structure using the identification information to determine the network service provider stored in the data structure corresponding to the identification information.

28. (Original) The network system of claim 26, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

29. (Original) The network system of claim 26, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

30. (Original) The network system of claim 26, wherein said identification information comprises a known geographic location of the portable computing device.

31. (Original) The network system of claim 26, wherein said identification

information comprises a digital certificate.

32. (Original) The network system of claim 26, wherein a subset of the one or more portable computing devices are portable computing devices.

33. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 26, wherein at least a subset of the one or more wireless access points ~~are operable to~~ concurrently use a plurality of radio frequency (RF) channels.

34. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 33, wherein a first wireless access point of the subset ~~is operable to~~ assigns one or more RF channels for communication with a computing device.

35. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 34, wherein the first wireless access point ~~is operable to~~ assigns the RF channel based on the identification information received from the computing device.

36. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 34, wherein the first wireless access point ~~is operable to~~ assigns the RF channel based on the determined network service provider.

37. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 34, further comprising:
wherein the first wireless access point ~~is operable to~~ determines an access level for the computing device after receiving the identification information; and
wherein the first wireless access point ~~is operable to~~ assigns a RF channel for communication with the computing device based on the determined access level.

38. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 34, wherein the first wireless access point ~~is operable to~~ concurrently:
communicates with a first computing device of the one or more computing

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devices using a first RF channel of the plurality of RF channels;

communicates with a second computing device of the one or more computing devices using a second RF channel of the plurality of RF channels.

39. (Original) The network system of claim 38, wherein the first RF channel and the second RF channel are different RF channels.

40. (Original) The network system of claim 39, wherein the first RF channel and the second RF channel are non-overlapping RF channels.

41. (Original) The network system of claim 33, wherein at least a subset of the identification information entries each indicate at least one RF channel.

42. (Original) The network system of claim 41, wherein the indicated RF channel is used in providing network access.

43. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 33, wherein the data structure further stores a respective RF channel for each identification information entry; wherein, in determining the network service provider for the computing device, each of the subset of the one or more wireless access points ~~is operable to~~ indexes into the data structure using the identification information to determine the RF channel stored in the data structure corresponding to the identification information;

wherein each of the subset of the one or more wireless access points ~~is operable to~~ assigns a RF channel indicated by the data structure for each identification information entry.

44. (Currently Amended) A wireless access point for providing network access to one or more computing devices,

wherein the wireless access point is ~~operable to be~~ coupled to a network[[,]];

wherein the wireless access point ~~is operable to~~ communicates with a computing

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device of the one or more computing devices[[,]];

wherein the wireless access point listens for all types of identification information and answers all queries from the computing device even if the wireless access point does not recognize the identification information;

wherein the wireless access point is configured to receives identification information from the computing device indicating a network-service communication medium access provider of a plurality of possible network-service communication medium access providers[[,]];

wherein the wireless access point is configured to provides access to the plurality of possible network-service communication medium access providers[[,]];

wherein the wireless access point includes a memory medium operable to that stores a data structure[[,]];

wherein the data structure comprises a list of identification information entries and corresponding network-service communication medium access providers[[,]];

wherein each entry indicates a respective network-service communication medium access provider of the plurality of possible network-service communication medium access providers;

wherein the wireless access point is operable to access the data structure to determine the network-service communication medium access provider indicated by the identification information from the plurality of possible network-service communication medium access providers;

wherein each of the plurality of possible network-service communication medium access providers is operable to enable wirelessly connects particular ones of the one or more computing devices to connect wirelessly to the network;

wherein, in determining the network-service communication medium access provider for the computing device, the wireless access point is operable to accesses the memory medium and uses the received identification information to determine the network-service communication medium access provider;

wherein the wireless access point is operable to provides data received from the computing device to a destination based on the determined network-service

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communication medium access provider; and

wherein network access is provided to the computing device through the destination.

45. (Previously Presented) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein the wireless access point is useable by subscribers of each of the plurality of possible network service providers.

46. (Previously Presented) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein the determined network service provider charges for access by the computing device to the network.

47. (Currently Amended) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein the data structure further comprises associated methods for providing data to the respective plurality of possible network service providers;

wherein, in determining the network service provider for the computing device, the wireless access point ~~is operable to~~ accesses the memory medium, use the received network service provider identification information to determine the network service provider, and use an associated method for providing the data to the determined network service provider.

48. (Previously Presented) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein the identification information comprises a System ID of the computing device, wherein the System ID uniquely identifies a network service provider of the plurality of possible network service providers.

49. (Currently Amended) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein the wireless access point ~~is operable to~~ provides the data to the destination in a secure manner.

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50. (Currently Amended) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein the wireless access point is at a known location in a geographic region, wherein the wireless access point ~~is operable to provide~~s geographic location information indicating a known geographic location of the computing device;

wherein network access is selectively provided to the computing device based on the known geographic location of the computing device.

51. (Original) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein at least a subset of the identification information entries each indicate at least one VLAN.

52. (Previously Presented) The wireless access point of claim 51, wherein each VLAN specifies a network service provider.

53. (Original) The wireless access point of claim 52, wherein the indicated VLAN is used in providing network access.

54. (Original) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein said identification information comprises a digital certificate.

55. (Original) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein said identification information comprises an IEEE 802.11 system identification.

56. (Original) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein said identification information comprises a media access control (MAC) identification.

57. (Original) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein said identification information comprises a known geographic location of the computing device.

58. (Currently Amended) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein the

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wireless access point ~~is operable to~~ provides the data to the destination utilizing Layer 2 forwarding.

59. (Currently Amended) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein at least a subset of the identification information entries each indicate at least one tunneling protocol, wherein the wireless access point ~~is operable to~~ provides the data to the destination utilizing a tunneling protocol.

60. (Original) The wireless access point of claim 59, wherein the tunneling protocol is PPTP.

61. (Original) The wireless access point of claim 59, wherein the tunneling protocol is IPSEC.

62. (Original) The wireless access point of claim 59, wherein the tunneling protocol is GRE.

63. (Original) The wireless access point of claim 59, wherein the tunneling protocol is IP-in-IP.

64. (Currently Amended) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein the wireless access point ~~is operable to~~ provides the data to the destination utilizing a tagged VLAN.

65. (Original) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein the computing device is a portable computing device.

66. (Previously Presented) The wireless access point of claim 44, wherein the wireless access point is further configured to receive a plurality of different sets of identification information corresponding to the plurality of possible network service

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providers,

wherein selected sets of the plurality of different sets of identification information are recognized by the wireless access point, and wherein selected sets of the plurality of different sets of identification information are not recognized by the wireless access point.

67. (Previously Presented) The wireless access point of claim 66, wherein the wireless access point is further configured to select a default network service provider for each received set of identification information that is not recognized by the wireless access point.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ADAM DUDA whose telephone number is (571)270-5136. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kwang B. Yao can be reached on (571) 272 - 3182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/ADAM DUDA/
Examiner, Art Unit 2416

/KWANG B. YAO/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2473